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Proceedings of Istanbul Conference on Bosnia

Turkish Foreign Minister Speaks

TA2511121792 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1100 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign ministers and high-ranking officials of various Balkan and Central European countries have convened in Istanbul in response to Turkey's call to solve regional problems.

In an opening statement at the meeting, which is being held behind closed doors, Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said that the Balkans are experiencing the darkest period in their history. He added that the region will not be allowed to become the burial ground of the common ideals and values that emerged in the aftermath of the Cold War. Noting that it is important for the regional countries to express their determination to solve the problems, Cetin added that only then can the efforts being exerted in international platforms be successful. Pointing out that all the diplomatic initiatives have failed to prevent the shameful developments in the region, Cetin said: We clearly are saying that this cannot continue. Stating that there are signs that the incidents are beginning to spread to other sectors in the region, Cetin stressed the necessity of saving Bosnia-Hercegovina from a bloodbath. He added that the spirit of cooperation and solidarity should be revived in the Balkans if [word indistinct] strategies are to be prevented.

Referring to the importance of eliminating the military imbalances in the region, Cetin proposed that a joint mechanism of cooperation and solidarity be set up to put an end to the bloody clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He further called for support for the UN resolutions on the former Yugoslavia, saying that it should be stressed at this meeting that regional countries are acting in accordance with the documents adopted at the London conference. Cetin said that the Istanbul conference is not an alternative to international initiatives on the issue but a complementary move.

The foreign ministers of Turkey, Albania, Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, and Slovenia are participating in the conference. High-ranking officials from Bulgaria, Romania, and Italy also are attending. Bosnia-Hercegovina was unable to send representatives to the conference because its officials could not leave the country due to the war. The Istanbul conference is to last one day. Many Turkish and foreign press officials are covering the conference.

Final Document Issued

TA2511161692 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1525 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Istanbul (AA)—The Istanbul Conference on developments in former Yugoslavia, in which 10 Balkan and neighboring countries participated, has ended with a final joint declaration.

The joint declaration expressed the deep concern felt over the tragedy in the former Yugoslavia, particularly in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia. The statement noted the danger that the clashes might spread to Kosovo, Vojvodina, and Sandzak regions, as well as to Macedonia, and remarked that this in turn may drag regional countries into the conflict.

Pointing out that the participating countries will not accept the concept of territorial gains through the use of force or ethnic cleansing and that this process must be reversed, the statement called on all sides to respect the territorial integrity, independence, sovereignty, and national identity of the former Yugoslav republics.

The declaration condemned the refusal, especially by Serbian militias in Bosnia-Hercegovina, to comply with UN Security Council resolutions, stressing that Sarajevo, which is the capital and symbol of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, must be rescued at any cost.

The fall of Sarajevo will send shock waves to the Balkans and to the whole of Europe, the declaration noted, asking the foreign ministers of CSCE member countries to meet in Sarajevo as soon as possible.

The joint communique also appealed to relevant international organizations urgently to establish in Bosnia-Hercegovina regions under military protection and as many corridors as possible for humanitarian aid.

The countries participating in the Balkan conference demanded that UN observers be deployed on the borders of Bosnia-Hercegovina and asked the UN Security Council to investigate the possibility of sending UN forces to Kosovo, Vojvodina, Sandzak, and Macedonia because of the dangerous situation in these areas.

Calling on the sides in Kosovo, especially the Serbian authorities, to act with moderation, the joint declaration stated that the spread of the clashes in the former Yugoslavia to other regions could have unpredictable consequences, so the international community must adopt the most effective measures to stop the clashes.

The declaration called on the international community to recognize Macedonia, noting that this will contribute positively to peace and cooperation in the Balkans.

Asking that the international conference on the former Yugoslavia convene in December at ministerial level to discuss necessary steps for the implementation of the declaration of principles, which had been issued previously, the joint statement underlined the necessity of reactivating the Balkan cooperation mechanism established in 1988.

According to the joint declaration, it was decided that all Balkan and neighboring countries will hold high-level consultations periodically or as necessary to review developments concerning the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, coordinate policies, prepare recommendations for governments, and provide support for international moves seeking a solution to the problem.

Foreign Ministers Brief Press

TA2511195092 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The participants in the Istanbul conference on developments in the former Yugoslavia held a joint news conference at the end of their meeting. Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin declared that all the participating countries concur on the need to stop the clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Pointing out that the proliferation of the clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina to other areas in the region will cause significant turbulence in Europe, Cetin explained that the United Nations must send a force to the area to stop the clashes effectively. If a force were sent to Bosnia-Hercegovina in the same way as it was sent to Croatia one year ago, the clashes would not have reached their current proportions and could have been prevented, he said.

The foreign minister stressed that sending troops to areas prone to clashes and convening a CSCE ministerial meeting will be important in sending the correct messages to the aggressor. The countries attending the Istanbul conference are acting with a sense of regional responsibility, Cetin remarked, expressing the hope that those who failed to attend will not oppose the joint declaration.

Cetin announced that the views that emerged from the conference will be taken to the Islamic Conference Organization meeting to be held in Jeddah on 1 December. Furthermore, Cetin noted, the participants expect the United Nations to undertake more effective initiatives concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The visiting ministers then answered questions at the news conference. Macedonian Foreign Relations Minister Denko Malevski asked that a UN peace force be deployed in his country. Malevski also proposed control of nationalist movements.

In his statement, Slovenian Foreign Affairs Minister Dimitrij Rupel declared that the Serbs must not be allowed to seize Sarajevo in a bid to prevent the clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina from spreading to the region. The Croatian foreign minister, for his part, pointed out that a section of his country's territories are under Serbian occupation despite the presence of the UN force. The Hungarian foreign minister demanded that more UN troops be sent to the region. The presence of the UN peace force in the region is very important, Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi underlined. Sharing the same view, the Bulgarian representative asked that these forces be intensified in sensitive Yugoslav regions.

Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock's proposal to establish various security regions in Sarajevo with the aim of preventing the proliferation of clashes and guaranteeing the secure transportation of refugees was generally approved during the Istanbul conference.

Attending the conference were the foreign ministers of Turkey, Macedonia, Austria, Albania, Croatia, Hungary, and Slovenia, and high-level oficials of Bulgaria, Romania, and Italy. Bosnia-Hercegovina officials were unable to attend because of the war in their country, while Greece and the Yugoslav Federation declined to attend.

Albanian Minister Protests Serb Policy

AU2611162392 Tirana ATA in English 1133 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Tirana, November 26 (ATA)—On November 25 the conference of the foreign ministers of the Balkan and regional countries held its proceedings in Istanbul to discuss the current dangers that might emerge due to the conflict in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Attending the conference were representatives from Turkey, Albania, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Italy. The delegation of Bosnia-Hercegovina could not arrive at this meeting because of the savage attacks of the Serb forces against the Sarajevo Airport. From the invited countries only Greece and remained Yugoslavia did not take part.

The conference was opened by the Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin. Then, the floor was taken by the Albanian Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi. He said that with all the resolutions adopted by the international forums or the sanctions imposed on the so-called Yugoslavia, the massacres and destructions in Bosnia-Hercegovina continue posing a real danger for an extension of conflict to the south and a possible confrontation among the Balkan countries. He said that Albania demanded from the Security Council that the UN forces launch a military action to prevent Serb aggression.

The Republic of Albania, said Mr. Alfred Serreqi, will never agree with ethnic purges in Kosovo and other territories of former Yugoslavia. I believe, said he, that the decisions of this conference are a powerful and significant message to the Belgrade authorities. We will never subject to the policy of fait accompli.

The overwhelming majority of ministers sternly condemned the chauvinistic policy and crimes of Belgrade Government. In the end the conference endorsed a joint statement.

SDS, BPS Leaders Confer on Forming of Coalition

Dimitrov on Results of Talks

AU2611183592 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] At the request of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP], this evening at the headquarters of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] at 134 Rakovski Street in Sofia, a meeting took place between Mr. Filip Dimitrov and Mr. Zhan Videnov, Mrs. Nora Ananieva, Mr. Nikolay Kamov, and Mr. Yordan Shkolagerski. The meeting continued for more than one hour. Mr. Filip Dimitrov informs us about the proceedings.

[Begin Dimitrov recording] We discussed three basic topics. The first was our guests' question about whether the SDS would participate in a cabinet led by a BSP representative. Our answer was based on the decision of the SDS National Coordinating Council, namely, that the SDS would not participate in such a configuration.

The question was posed about what our attitude would be if some part of SDS members agree to participate eventually in such a government. Again, in accordance with the decisions of the SDS National Coordinating Council, we replied that such persons could not represent the SDS if they participate in such a cabinet.

Naturally, thoughts were expressed about the regional situation. Both sides expressed concern with the complex situation in the region. [end recording]

At their news conference at the National Assembly building the Socialists also assessed the results of the meeting. Our reporter Nina Spasova reports:

[Spasova] The news conference still continues, but generally the information presented by the two sides coincides. I will add what we learned from Zhan Videnov, and what was not mentioned by Mr. Filip Dimitrov.

The Socialists informed Mr. Dimitrov about their intention to form a cabinet of national consensus and insisted that no campaign of slander and discrediting in the public and the mass media be organized if such a cabinet is formed.

Filip Dimitrov assessed as slim the chance of forming such a cabinet and ventured the forecast that out-of-turn elections are the most plausible variant. An agreement has been reached between the two sides that if indeed early elections are set, contacts on this issue at expert level should resume. In addition, Zhan Videnov expressed the opinion that the formation of a government, regardless of the formula it would be based on, must be guaranteed through some kind of support—either through a political agreement or by coordinating the legislative program between the political forces.

Filip Dimitrov recommended waiting for the development of the cabinet crisis and afterward to use the parliamentary mechanisms for specifying the legislative program.

The general assessment of the Socialists was that the meeting was positive, and they pointed out the fact that after an interruption of one year the meeting was the first such high-level contact.

At the news conference additional information about the consultations on forming the new cabinet was disclosed. According to Zhan Videnov, nominating the candidate for prime minister is a decisive issue. For the first time it was admitted that [National Bank chairman] Mr. Todor Vulchev has been asked to assume this post. Today a long talk with him took place, which also was attended by Mrs. Nora Ananieva. Prof. Vulchev again declined and said that he does not wish to enter the field of politics at the present moment. Tomorrow the BSP representatives will meet with representatives of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] after their meeting with the president. Contacts with the extraparliamentary forces will take place during the weekend and at the beginning of next week. Meetings are envisioned with separate parties within the SDS. Zhan Videnov said that this is an entirely normal move.

Videnov Sees New Elections 'Shortly'

AU2611202792 Sofia BTA in English 2020 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 26 (BTA)—The leaders of the two major political forces: Zhan Videnov of the Bulgarian Socialist (ex-Communist) Party (BSP) and Filip Dimitrov of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), held a more than one hour long meeting today. The rendezvous took place on the Socialists' initiative as part of their consultations on the formation of what they call a "programme government of national concord." That was BSP's first formal meeting with another political force, and news analysts here describe the fact as a precedent after a one-year break of contacts.

"We share the opinion that Bulgaria may come to elections shortly and that all political forces and especially the two largest ones bear the responsibility for the readiness of the state, the legislation and the political spectrum for a constitutional and democratic settlement of the crisis through these elections," Mr. Videnov said after the meeting.

According to the BSP leader, the chances to form a national concord cabinet are slim for the time being. He quoted Filip Dimitrov as saying that there was little chance of forming such a cabinet.

The Socialists, however, keep looking for a suitable candidate for the prime ministership. Today they confirmed for the first time having offered the post to National Bank Governor Todor Vulchev, who declined,

saying that he would rather not commit himself to a political office for the time being.

Mr. Dimitrov said that at the meeting today the Socialists asked whether the SDS would participate in the future cabinet and how it would react to the possible participation of "persons obviously associated with the coalition." The SDS will not accept to take part, and if individual persons accept portfolios, they will not represent the coalition, the SDS leader emphasized, recalling the decisions of the SDS leadership made earlier this week. The SDS cannot afford to support a cabinet formed on the former Communist Party's mandate, Ms. Ekaterina Mikhaylova MP, SDS deputy floor leader, stressed after the parliamentary SDS met with President Zhelyu Zhelev, who is also holding consultations on the prospective cabinet.

The Socialists will hold formal consultations with the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS) tomorrow.

At parliament today, 56 of the 110 SDS MP's signed a document criticizing the policy pursued so far by the National Coordinating Council, the coalition's supreme body. The document says there are still opportunities to negotiate with the DPS, the third largest parliamentary force, on the formation of a SDS-DPS coalition cabinet. The MP's believe that everything possible should be done to thwart the Socialists' cabinet-formation attempts.

SDS Leaders Refuse Coalition Role

AU2611175992 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] One hour ago representatives of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] responded to the invitation of President Zhelyu Zhelev and came to meet him at the Presidency. They were led by Edvin Sugarev, Ekaterina Mikhaylova, and Ilian Shotlekov. Aleksandur Yordanov, National Assembly chairman, also attended the meeting. Our reporter Diyana Yankulova reports:

[Yankulova] As the president promised yesterday, today he conducted the initial political consultations, something the Constitution authorizes him to do. He met with representatives of the SDS parliamentary faction. Tomorrow he will meet with representatives of the parliamentary faction of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS].

The meeting continued for more than two hours. Afterward, Ekaterina Mikhaylova made a statement for reporters. According to this statement, the SDS representatives informed President Zhelyu Zhelev that the BSP must form or at least try to form a cabinet as soon as possible and nominate a prime minister. As far as the SDS position is involved, the SDS categorically states that it will not participate in a government formed by the BSP. This is a categorical position, which is not based on any voting. Ekaterina Mikhaylova pointed out that she knows of no SDS member who has expressed a different opinion. According to the SDS, regardless of the formula on the basis of which the BSP will conduct its consultations, the SDS cannot afford to participate in a government together with the heirs of the former Communists.

Mrs. Ekaterina Mikhaylova further said that Bulgaria is experiencing a very difficult moment, but the new cabinet must cope with the situation. Precisely because of this, the SDS was ready to assume this responsibility, but the parliament vote deprived it of this possibility. Consequently, the SDS will await the results of the next round of consultations. If the consultations will result in new elections, the SDS is ready for them.

BSP Hopes To Form Next Government

AU2411193492 Sofia BTA in English 1756 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Report by Evgenia Drumeva]

[Text] Sofia, November 24 (BTA)—The first official consultations between President Zhelyu Zhelev and the leadership of the Bulgarian Socialist, formerly Communist, Party (BSP) on a new cabinet are scheduled for tomorrow. Late last week the BSP, which under the Constitution should be asked to form a cabinet, proposed "a programme cabinet of national concord."

It can be concluded from the informal contacts our representatives have established with different political forces that the formula proposed by the BSP is met with approval, Mr. Nikolay Kamov, spokesman for the BSP top leadership, told a press conference today. So far the Socialists have had talks with representatives of the extraparliamentary parties mostly.

However, to get the approval of the 240-member National Assembly, a new cabinet should be supported by yet another parliamentary faction besides the 106-member BSP-led coalition.

As a coalition and a parliamentary group, the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) can hardly be expected to support a cabinet formed by the ex-Communists. However, last night BSP spokeswoman Klara Marinova said that the Socialists had already met "prominent personalities and representatives of separate parties in the SDS." The so-called Group-12 of Mr. Dimitur Ludzhev, dismissed as defense minister in May by ex-Prime Minister Filip Dimitrov, has already been well established. Mr. Ludzhev was one of the supporters of the programme cabinet formed by the Socialists at the beginning of 1991 in which he was deputy prime minister.

The ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] has not come out with a categorical position on the Socialists' proposal yet. When Mr. Filip Dimitrov was defeated as prime minister-designate in parliament, the DPS leaders declared they would not participate in a coalition government with the Socialists. However, later on DPS spokesman Yunal Lyutfi said that the BSP formula was worth considering at least.

If the DPS sticks to its criteria and conditions set out at the negotiations with the SDS, we will have no problems, as we share the same positions in the social sphere, Mrs. Klara Marinova said.

At the same time the Socialists seem embarrassed by their own image as representatives of the ex-Communist Party. The BSP is ready to let anybody realize the "government of national concord, if they wish to do so" Mr. Nikolay Kamov said. In the last few days the BSP has been persistently launching the idea of President Zhelyu Zhelev opening multilateral political consultations on the formula of a new programme government.

Analysts admit that the BSP attempts to form a cabinet might be a way of evading the responsibility for a prolonged crisis and early elections. At its meeting held last weekend the Socialist top leadership discussed whether its resolution should envisage preparations for early elections if the BSP proposal for a programme cabinet is not supported. However, on the motion of a representative of the Alliance for Social Democracy in the BSP, the proposal was rejected. Today the Socialists emphasized once again that the BSP would not assume the responsibility for early elections.

Analysis of Coalition Possibilities

AU2411214692 Sofia BTA in English 2033 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Report by Iva Toncheva report]

[Text] Sofia, November 24 (BTA)—The possibility of forming a coalition government in Bulgaria, though called a programme one, and of it receiving support in parliament should not be absolutely ruled out.

The Bulgarian Socialist, formerly Communist, Party (BSP) is expected to be assigned these days, maybe even tomorrow, a mandate to form a cabinet after last Friday [20 November] the candidature of Mr. Filip Dimitrov, leader of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), as prime minister was defeated in parliament. The Socialists launched the idea of a "broad-based coalition government of national concord." Judging by what BSP spokeswoman Klara Marinova said this evening, it seems that many political parties would accept the idea of the Socialists. However, there have been only informal talks on it as the president has not assigned the mandate to the BSP officially yet.

The present position of the leaders of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF), on the vote of which the approval of a new cabinet depends, is that they will not participate in a coalition government with the BSP. According to a TV reporter, when asked if the MRF would support the programme government advertised by the BSP, its spokesman Yunal Lyutfi said it would depend on the BSP offer.

Replying a question of BTA, Mrs. Klara Marinova did not deny that talks had been held with leaders of UDF parties, she admitted there were meetings with some persons outside the group formed by ex-Minister of Defense Dimitur Ludzhev who has sharply criticized the UDF political line of late. The Socialists' spokeswoman did not disclose who the talks had been held with. Today the UDF declared it is against early parliamentary elections. Interviewed for DEMOKRATSIYA, National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov yesterday said that the UDF should try to stay in power by conducting a political dialogue, today the idea was discussed at a sitting of the coalition's top leadership.

This evening the Socialists reproached the president for not having invited them to be assigned formally a mandate for forming a new cabinet. "We are worried by the delay of consultations and the president's silence," the spokeswoman for the Socialists said. She did not conceal that the Socialists had contacted some of the president's advisers and that they would try to make an appointment with Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev later tonight.

In an interview for the BBC Bulgarian Service late last night, part of which was broadcast on the National Radio today, President Zhelyu Zhelev said that the BSP could hardly manage to form a coalition cabinet. According to Mrs. Klara Marinova, the M.P.'s for the BSP were unanimous at today's meeting that they would not decline the mandate and would form a cabinet.

However, the exact formula of the cabinet is not clear yet. Different variants have been discussed—a cabinet of independents, a cabinet with a balanced participation of political forces, or an "internal-agreement cabinet," as the Socialist spokeswoman put it.

The Socialists refused to identify the people they had approached offering them the post of prime minister. At present the BSP is for an independent and competent prime minister who is respected by the public. Today the Socialists' spokeswoman said that most speculations in the press about future ministers and possible heads of the cabinet are journalists' fabrications.

Prof. Nora Ananieva, floor leader of the BSP Parliamentary Faction, had a meeting with U.S. Ambassador Hugh Kenneth Hill today with whom she discussed the political situation in Bulgaria. Representatives of the Socialists are holding a meeting with chiefs of other diplomatic missions.

SDS Group Starts Expulsion Process of Ludzhev

AU2411173892 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] At today's meeting of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] Parliamentary Group it was categorically declared that the coalition would never participate in a government headed by the Rights and Freedoms Movement [DPS] and shall never accept a mandate conceded by the DPS. It was also declared that the SDS would never permit a revision of the hitherto adopted legislation related to the reform. At this very moment the group

is discussing a decision envisioning the expulsion of deputies who voted against the government from the SDS Parliamentary Group. The necessary 76 signatures for the expulsion of Dimitur Ludzhev, who quite frankly admitted having voted against the prime minister, have already been collected.

Ludzhev Still Causing Dissension

AU2411192992 Sofia BTA in English 1702 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Report by Iva Toncheva]

[Text] Sofia, November 24 (BTA)—According to official statements, the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) does not declare itself in favour of early parliamentary elections. "We don't want elections, elections are constantly being forced on us," the SDS spokesman Mr. Mikhail Nedelchev told the press today.

In late October, the SDS cabinet headed by Mr. Filip Dimitrov had its confidence motion defeated by parliament. The cabinet came under heavy pressure from the ethnic Turks' Movement for Rights and Freedoms (DPS), which insisted on a "left turn" in the government's policy. Parliament voted down Mr. Filip Dimitrov's nomination for the premiership last Friday [20 November]. Many politicians and observers predict early parliamentary elections by next March at the latest.

"SDS will continue its participation in the structures and systems of state power and the sittings of parliament," Mr. Mikhail Nedelchev stressed at today's news conference. According to him, though SDS has lost control over central executive power, it still controls the local government in many places around the country. The SDS M.P.'s [members of parliament] will use all means to counter a possible revision of the key economic acts adopted by the incumbent parliament.

At its meeting today, the top leadership of the Union of Democratic Forces pointed out that it would be inadmissible for SDS representatives to take part in other coalition governments. In the meantime, Bulgarian Socialists are preparing a broad-based coalition government at the moment. If parliament denies support to that cabinet, the Movement for Rights and Freedoms will be asked to form its government. The DPS leader Mr. Ahmed Dogam has already mentioned a possibility of DPS yielding its mandate to SDS. The SDS spokesman today said that there is no such parliamentary procedure. The DPS openly favours ex-Defense Minister Dimitur Ludzhev, who has been criticizing the SDS leaders over the past couple of months and stood away from the votes on Filip Dimitrov's nomination to the premiership last Friday, or the M.P.'s of his entourage, informally known as the B-12 group. Dimitur Ludzhev has made it very clear that he could form a separate parliamentary faction. According to SDS leaders, if such faction is established, its members should leave parliament as they have been elected M.P.'s by the proportional representation system.

The parliamentary SDS cannot make a decision to expel Dimitur Ludzhev and his supporters from parliament. The SDS spokesman therefore called on this group to make a "moral choice." It is quite possible, however, that the parliamentary SDS could split, now that the union has lost executive power.

KNSB Rejects Role in Forming New Cabinet

AU2511164492 Sofia BTA in English 1622 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 25 (BTA)—The Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (KNSB) does not intend to discuss and make proposals as regards the composition of a new cabinet, Mr. Ivan Nikov, KNSB vice president, said at a press conference here today. This trade union amalgamation does not wish to play the role of a "personnel manager" in the formation of a new cabinet.

Today the KNSB announced its nine proposals and demands related to the programme of any new cabinet. The main demands are: to restore the social partnership mechanism at national level (between the employers, the government and the trade unions) and to familiarize the social partners and coordinate with them the progress and the results of the government's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and with Bulgaria's creditor banks.

The KNSB insists on the adoption of annual privatization programmes, on their concrete implementation in the enterprises and on the speedy settlement of the problems with the debts of the enterprises. The KNSB is also for the immediate solving of the problems of the enterprises of the military industrial complex.

Citizens Said Passing Fuel Daily to Serbia

AU2711104092 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The illegal export of gasoline continues through the Vrska Cuka-Bregovo border crossing point in Mikhaylovgrad Oblast. Our correspondent reports with amazement that so far no way has been found to stop the smuggling. It is true that for this reason our citizens have restricted access to our western neighbor [reference to recently introduced restrictions on cross-border travel], but this has failed to correct the situation, and Bulgarian and Serbian citizens are transporting 30 to 35 tonnes of fuel daily to Serbia.

Ministry Rules Out Balkan Military Participation

AU2511152292 Sofia BTA in English 1409 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Sofia, November 25 (BTA)—The purpose of the Bulgarian presence at the conference of the Balkan countries' foreign ministers in Istanbul is to stress that a new impetus should be given to international efforts for finding a political solution to the Yugoslav crisis, Mrs.

Veneta Momcheva, spokeswoman for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said today. She is attending the Istanbul forum.

Besides Mrs. Veneta Momcheva, the Bulgarian delegation comprises the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Southeastern Europe and International Organizations Departments, Mr. Lyubcho Trokharov, and Mr. Veselin Petrov.

Mrs. Momcheva reported on the national radio from Istanbul that in his speech this morning Mr. Trokharov dwelt on the proposal of Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev to convene the foreign ministers of the countries participating in the London International Conference on the former Yugoslavia the soonest possible, suggesting that the committee of the London Conference hold a meeting as an immediate step. Mr. Ganev made this proposal in a letter sent two days ago to Mr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali and Mr. John Major, co-chairing the London Conference.

We invited the participants in the Istanbul forum to address an appeal to the co-chairmen of the London Conference calling for such a meeting, the present exchange of views cannot replace the international efforts for settling the Yugoslav crisis but should rather activate them within the framework of the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the London International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In this sense we consider the Istanbul exchange of views as a potential preparation for the meeting Mr. Ganev suggested, Mrs. Momcheva said.

Mr. Trokharov said in his speech that today's meeting harmonized with yet another Bulgarian initiative—the promotion of the Helsinki process in the Balkans.

Concerning Bosnia-Hercegovina, Mr. Trokharov stressed that the use of force for resolving the conflict could be endorsed solely by the UN Security Council as a last resort.

Having in mind the realities in the Balkans, Bulgaria confirmed once again its position: Neither its troops, nor its weapons will participate in any military operation in the territory of ex-Yugoslavia, the country will not have its territory used as a base for such operations. "At today's meeting we called upon the other Balkan countries not to participate in any such action," the spokeswoman for the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry said.

Security Agreement Signed With Turkey

AU2511130392 Sofia BULGARSKA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 18 Nov 92 pp 1, 4

["1992 Edirne Document on Mutually Complementary Confidence- and Security Building Measures and Military Contacts Between Bulgaria and Turkey"]

[Text]

1992 Edirne Document on Mutually Complementary Confidence- and Security Building Measures and Military Contacts Between Bulgaria and Turkey

The chiefs of the General Staffs of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey—both being member states of the CSCE—met in Edirne on 12 November 1992.

Having recalled their countries' obligations arising from the Helsinki Final Act, the Stockholm Conference Document, the Paris Charter for a New Europe, the Paris joint declaration, the Vienna document of 1992, and the Helsinki document of 1992;

Having reiterated their conviction that the efforts on a bilateral and multilateral basis should be directed toward further developing the CSCE process in all its component elements that constitute a single whole;

Bearing in mind the importance of the process of military openness and contacts, to which the seminars on military doctrines held in Vienna within the CSCE framework contributed, among other things;

With the aim, through their mutual efforts, of making a positive contribution to strengthening confidence and security in the Balkans and throughout Europe;

Pointing out that the contribution of all other states in the region will be especially beneficial to strengthening confidence and security in the Balkans;

Confirming their intention not to contravene the military interests of third parties at any stage;

Issuing a reminder that they reserve their rights to participate in alliance treaties or not, as the case may be;

Noting that their rights and obligations under previous legal or political commitments will not be compromised;

Bearing in mind the Treaty of Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, Cooperation, and Security signed between the Republics of Bulgaria and Turkey on 6 May 1992, and;

Having positively assessed the role played by the Sofia Document of 1991 in accelerating the bilateral process of strengthening confidence and security between the two countries,

RESOLVED to continue developing the bilateral process that the Sofia Document of 1991 started, with the aim of strengthening confidence and security in the region on the basis of dialogue and cooperation, implementing this process in stages, and to concentrate their efforts in the following areas:

—further strengthening of confidence and security in regions and zones adjacent to the Bulgarian-Turkish border;
—expanding the exchange of military information; and
—extending military contacts.

In accordance with the above, the sides ADOPTED the following:

I. THE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY AND IMPROVE THE EXCHANGE OF MILITARY INFORMATION ARE TO BE APPLIED WITHIN A DEFINED ZONE OF APPLICATION ALONG THE BULGARIAN-TURKISH BORDER.

(1) The two sides will notify each other in advance of military activity conducted by them on their respective territories within the borders of the following zone of application delineated by Burgaz, Strandzha, Boyadzhik, Rogozinovo, Shtit, Bozhuyuk, Turgutbey, Tozakli, and Kiyik.

(2) Military activity will be subject to notification when it at any time involves:
—a minimum of 7,500 men, including supporting troops, or
—a minimum of 150 battle tanks, or
—a minimum of 150 artillery systems of 100 mm caliber or above,

if the troops are organized in two brigades/regiments that are not directly subordinated to one and the same superior formation.

(3) Each side will invite observers from the other side when it conducts military activities subject to notification. The aforementioned activity will be subject to observation in cases where:

—the number of participating troops is equal to or greater than 10,000, inclusive of supporting troops, or
—the number of battle tanks is equal to or greater than 200, or
—the number of artillery systems of 100 mm caliber or above is equal to or greater than 200.

(4) Irrespective of the provisions of Paragraph (3) above, each side will additionally invite observers from the other side once annually when it holds a military exercise at the level of a battalion tactical group.

(5) Neither side will hold military exercises in which more than two battalions participate in regions adjacent to their common border to a depth of 15 kilometers in the zone of application as defined in Paragraph (1) above.

(6) Each side will notify the other in writing through diplomatic channels, as early as possible, but not later than 42 days prior to:

—commencing notifiable military activities in the zone of application defined in Paragraph (1) above, and
—transferring troop units from regions outside the zone of application to positions for entry into the zone or from regions within the zone to positions for concentrating units in the zone, in cases where this activity involves:
a minimum of 7,500 men, inclusive of supporting troops, or
a minimum of 150 battle tanks, or
a minimum of 150 artillery systems of 100 mm caliber or above.

(7) Each side has the right, in addition to the inspections provided in the Vienna document of 1992, to carry out one additional inspection and two visits to evaluate the territory of the other side in the zone of application defined in Paragraph (1) above.

(8) Each side will refrain from making these additional inspections and/or visits when an inspection and/or evaluation visit is being conducted on their territories by third parties.

(9) The two sides determined points of contact for transmitting and receiving reports on the aforementioned measures.

(10) The appropriate instructions and procedures of the Vienna document of 1992 will be applied when making notifications and to the form of the notifications' content, and when determining the duration and other conditions for carrying out observations, additional inspections, and evaluation visits.

II. MILITARY CONTACTS

(11) To develop bilateral relations aimed at strengthening confidence and security within the framework of the Vienna document of 1992, the two sides will expand and facilitate contacts between the relevant military institutions, including the following:

—exchanges of visits of command and headquarters staff officers;

—exchanges of visits by their Navies; and

—cooperation in the sports, social, and cultural fields.

(12) The procedures, programs, and other conditions relating to implementation of the contacts under Paragraph (11) above will be defined in annual protocols.

III. APPRAISAL OF IMPLEMENTATION

(13) In one year's time or earlier by mutual agreement, representatives of the two sides will hold a meeting to discuss the present and future implementation of these measures.

(14) The measures adopted in this document are politically binding and will come into force on 1 January 1993.

Arsenal Workers Strike Continues, More Plants Join

AU2611212792 Sofia BTA in English 2053 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Orlin Dzhelepov report]

[Text] Sofia, November 26 (BTA)—After occupying the Kazanluk Railway Station (central Bulgaria), this afternoon the workers of the Arsenal Ordnance Company blocked the road to the Shipka Pass (in the Balkan Range), tying up motorway traffic between northern and southern Bulgaria. National Radio said that a blockade of the Republika Pass, expected in the coming days, would completely cut off the northern and southern parts of Bulgaria. The protesters see parliament's resolution yesterday to appoint an ad hoc commission of inquiry into their problems as an indication that their demands had been misunderstood. Employees of the Trema Arms Industry Company today joined the protest of the Arsenal workers by blocking the rail traffic at Tryavna (central Bulgaria) for one hour.

The Arsenal workers blocked the Kazanluk Railway Station for the first time last week. By this extreme form of protest they seek to attract the government's attention to the problems of the Bulgarian military industrial complex. Over the last few months, they have repeatedly raised their key demands: Transformation into public debt of the military companies' debts, preferential credits to cover the payment of employees' wages, and secured markets for Bulgarian-made military products.

The participants in a rally at the Arsenal Works today adopted a declaration addressed to the Bulgarian National Assembly which says that yesterday's decision to appoint a parliamentary commission into the matter would not solve their problems. According to the company's executives, Arsenal's main plants have fuel and raw materials to last for two or three days at the most. Representatives of the Arsenal Works who returned from Sofia late last night reported they had been denied the funds needed to pay the employee's wages for the period since September 1992.

The problems of the Arsenal employees, who make up half of Kazanluk's population, electrify the atmosphere in the town. The leading Kazanluk companies called a one-hour warning strike at 11 a.m. today.

The workers of the Trema Company of Tryavna declared they will be holding up both passenger and freight rail traffic daily until their problems are settled. Employees of the Impulse Military Company in Gabrovo (central Bulgaria) joined Arsenal's protest by calling a one-hour effective strike today. Workers of Textilmach, the other leading military company in Gabrovo, sent a formal declaration to parliament today, warning that they, too, will strike. Employees of the Madara Truck-Building Company of Shumen (northeastern Bulgaria), who believe that the military workers' problems are similar to these of Bulgarian auto-makers, called a one-hour strike today, too. Bulgarian auto-makers threaten they will take prolonged strike action. The members of the Metalelektro National Trade Union Federation in Ruse (northern Bulgaria) have also joined the Arsenal protest.

Arms Workers Still Block Station

AU2711110592 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Our correspondent Nayden Rangelov reports that in Kazanluk today the tension at the Arsenal plant remains despite the assurances given last night on Channel One of Bulgarian Television that the arms workers' problems will be resolved.

Kazanluk train station remained blocked until midnight, and this morning a human chain of discontented workers is again blocking the tracks and not allowing trains through.

At the town hall talks have started with the participation of the two trade union confederations—the KNSB [Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria] and the Podkrepa Labor Confederation—on measures needed to be taken to resume production, pay the wages for September, and ensure the calling off of strike actions. In the opinion of our correspondent Nayden Rangelov, however, these matters cannot be decided by the trade unions' management.

The executive director of Arsenal and his deputies refuse to meet journalists or to make any statement whatsoever. With interrelations remaining so complex and strained, our correspondent reports, they will keep to one side, not assuming any responsibility in connection with certain reproaches made against them.

According to information that we received from the regional Podkrepa trade union organization, as of yesterday hospitals and kindergartens in Kazanluk have been without heating, because the tank cars loaded with heating oil were sent back from Kazanluk station to Burgas. The Kazanluk stationmaster stated that he will not allow fuel tank cars to pass through, including those destined for Kazanluk, in accordance with an order from above. At their rally yesterday, the Arsenal workers themselves declared that they would let tank cars through so as not to leave the town without central heating and steam for technological requirements.

The workers at the arms plant in Travna will refrain from protest actions today because as of this morning the station has been under police guard.

The workers are due to hold another general meeting at the Arsenal plant at 1300 today, at which they will decide on future forms of protest.

KNSB Position on Arms Industry, Government Crisis

AU2511111592 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Today's news briefing at the headquarters of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions [KNSB] in Bulgaria was chaired by Deputy Chairman Ivan Neykov. The chairman, Mr. Petkov, is currently in parliament,

where he is expected to submit the problems of the arms industry to the attention of National Assembly Chairman Aleksandur Yordanov.

Mr. Neykov informed journalists at the news briefing that the Arsenal Company workers have decided to hold a joint meeting today, at which they will follow and discuss the debates at the National Assembly session. In accordance with the ensuing parliament decisions, they will determine their further actions.

It was once more confirmed at the news briefing that the KNSB leadership's stand on the government crisis remains unchanged. The confederation does not intend to serve as an instrument of propaganda for anyone and will not make pronouncements on the problems of the future government.

More on Federal Assembly Approving End of CSFR

LD2511191692 Prague CTK in English 1722 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Prague Nov 25 (CTK)—The Czech and Slovak Federative Republic ceases to exist after December 31, its successor states being the Czech republic and the Slovak republic, says the constitutional act on ending the Czechoslovak Federation which was approved by the Federal Assembly (parliament) today.

The act's preamble states that in passing it, the Federal Assembly respected the resolution of the Czech and Slovak National Councils (parliaments).

The act says that as of January 1, 1993, Czechoslovak state bodies, armed forces, armed security corps and state organisations acting within the federation and established by law cease to exist simultaneously with the ending of the federation.

The Czech and Slovak republics may not use Czechoslovakia's state symbols after the federation's ending, the act says.

As of January 1, 1993, legislative power in the two republics passes to their legislative bodies composed of deputies elected on the territory of the respective republic to the federal parliament and the respective national parliament.

As of January 1, 1993, the powers vested in the federal government pass to the Czech and Slovak governments on the respective territories if not stipulated otherwise by the republics' constitutional laws. Also, the powers vested in the Czechoslovak Supreme Court pass to the Supreme Courts of the two republics as of that date, just as the powers vested in the Czechoslovak Constitutional Court.

The Czech and Slovak parliaments are entitled to pass constitutional and other laws before the ending of Czechoslovakia, which will become effective no sooner than January 1, 1993.

Before the ending of the federation, both republics have the right to conclude agreements on their relations in matters falling within the powers of the federation, and sign international agreements with third states. These agreements will take effect only after Czechoslovakia's termination.

The constitutional act becomes effective on the day of its promulgation.

Parliament Cancels Presidential Election

LD2711131792 Prague CTK in English 1222 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Prague Nov 27 (CTK)—The Federal Assembly (Parliament) at its joint session today stated that with the adoption of the law on the termination of the Czechoslovak Federation the constitutional reasons for the election of a federal president ceased to exist. The next round of the presidential elections, that under the Constitution was scheduled for December 1, will not be held, the parliament decided. The current 6th joint session of the parliament was adjourned until December 2.

Parties Supporting Termination of CSFR Noted

LD2511150292 Prague CTK in English 1433 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Prague, Nov 25 (CTK)—All deputies present from the Civic Democratic Party-Christian Democratic Party (ODS-KDS), the Christian Democratic Union-Czechoslovak People's Party (KDU-CSL), the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), the Slovak National Party (SNS), and the former members of the Assembly for the Republic-Czechoslovak Republican Party (SPR-RSC) supported the bill on the termination of the Czechoslovak Federation, according to a computer survey of the voting.

None of the deputies from the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH), the Egyutteles (Coexistence) Movement, the Left Bloc (LB), or the SPR-RSC supported the bill.

Also voting in favour of the bill were two deputies from the Democratic Left Party (SDL), five deputies from the Liberal Social Union (LSU), two from the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party (CSSD), and three from the Social Democratic Party in Slovakia (SDSS).

After the vote, the fifth joint session of the houses of the Federal Assembly was concluded. Parliament deputy chairman Roman Zelenay (HZDS) announced that the sixth session will be opened on Thursday [26 November] at 9:00 a.m.

Bill on Split Subject to Parliament Referendum

LD2511140792 Prague CTK in English 1203 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Prague, Nov 25 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak parliament arbitration committee has agreed that the bill on terminating the Czechoslovak Federation, if passed by the federal parliament, should be endorsed by a referendum in the two republics or by their parliaments.

Announcing the results of arbitration procedures following the parliament's failure last Tuesday to pass the bill, the chair of the committee, Vitazoslav Moric, said today that the constitutional method of endorsing the bill would be determined by the Czech and Slovak parliaments.

At the beginning of the continued session of both houses of the Czechoslovak parliament, Moric said that seven of the committee's eleven members agreed with the results of the arbitration procedures, two were against and two abstained.

He also said that the articles of the bill on ending the federation, which give legislative power in both republics to their legislative bodies composed of deputies elected

in the republics to the national parliaments and to the federal parliament, would be amended by a provision that the internal conditions of these legislative bodies would be defined by the two republics' laws.

The Federal Assembly did not pass the amendment, recommended by the arbitration committee, which stated that the law on the termination of the federation, if passed by the Federal Assembly, should be endorsed by a referendum in both republics, or by the national parliaments. The constitutional method of endorsing the bill should be determined by both the Czech and Slovak parliaments.

This proposal was voted down in the Czech part of the House of Nations and in the House of the People. In the Czech part of the House of Nations, 9 of the 73 deputies present supported the proposal, 36 voted against it, 27 abstained and one declined to vote. A minimum of 45 votes were necessary to pass the proposal.

In the House of the People, 48 of the 144 deputies present supported the amendment, 41 voted against it, 53 abstained and two declined to vote. 90 votes were necessary for passage.

Iliescu Comments on Vacaroiu Cabinet, Paris Visit

AU2611130592 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Introductory statement by President Ion Iliescu at a news conference at Bucharest's Cotroceni Palace on 26 November—live]

[Text] [Iliescu] Good day to you all. This is my first news conference after my inauguration as president, which comes a little bit late because I wanted things to calm down after the formation of the new government. I would like us to inaugurate a period of dialogue, openness, and franker and more useful communication, which will help us concentrate all the country's forces on the big and difficult problems that lie ahead of us.

In this introductory speech, I would like to tackle only two problems: an internal one, linked to the new situation in the wake of the formation of the new Vacaroiu government; and second, my recent visit to Paris.

I consider the formation of the Vacaroiu government as a moment that concludes the entire political process we have gone through in the past three years, also marking the establishment of the new state institutions, which resulted from the last elections. We are all too familiar with the entire process of negotiations that followed the elections and attempts to form a national government and work out a political pact of all parties, regardless of the structure of the government. In the end, as you well know, we formed a minority monocolor government—the political responsibility being assumed by the party with the largest representation in Parliament—that is, the Democratic National Salvation Front [FDSN]—with verbal assurances from the other parties to promote a constructive policy, while the FDSN assumes the responsibility of forming the government.

I consider all past and present discussions about this government—how political or technocratic it is—as futile. All governments are political. To govern means to make politics. Therefore, from this viewpoint, there can be no apolitical governments. As for the party political responsibility, the FDSN assumed full responsibility for forming this government, and it is the right of the party that has assumed this responsibility to form the governmental team it deems most appropriate. Therefore, from this viewpoint, I believe that discussions about how political or apolitical this government is are futile; the same applies to other discussions on such topics as how committed the party is that has assumed the responsibility of ruling.

Maybe a noncoalition government—that is, a somewhat monocolor government—presents some advantages, too, in certain respects. It was possible to form a government on the basis of unitary criteria of competence and adherence of each government member to the program of a unitary team, with suitable people being selected for all sectors of activity. Likewise, I consider it futile to talk about possible differences between the governmental program, the FDSN program, and the president's message. A more careful examination of these programs will reveal no fundamental differences, only some inevitable differences of nuance between an electoral program and a governmental one. This was also mentioned in the parliamentary debate that followed. Let us take, for instance, the Clinton administration: After a year of electoral campaign with its own program, President Clinton's team is now engaged in drafting a government program for the first 102 days. Therefore, a government program is something more that a mere electoral platform and program. It presupposes the tackling of concrete problems of the forthcoming period and the government period.

Likewise, I saw there were discussions on some measures envisaged by the Vacaroiu government for the government's involvement in the economy. I even heard some people say that Mr. Vacaroiu did not understand the meaning of the market economy, which allegedly is like a tree growing freely, without state intervention. Looking realistically around us—at the world economy and at the most developed economies—well, we can ascertain that there is no such tree in today's world and in the contemporary economy. Everywhere, the states become involved to defend national and economic interests. We do not have to go too far to find proof of that. Let us go back to the electoral disputes in the United States, the most powerful state, which has a great impact on the world economy and which relies on the entire world economy. The main dispute between the presidential candidates dealt with the way in which the candidates, that is the U.S. Administration, will become involved in the basic problems of the economy—infrastructure modernization, social problems, education, Medicare, social protection, defense of the national industry and its protection on the internal U.S. market or the international markets, taxes and revenues regime, and so forth.

An interesting analysis of the subject has been published after the U.S. elections—it refers to Clintonism and the state's rehabilitation. One can note a certain cyclical phenomenon in this respect—of a larger or less large implication of the state in the economy, depending on the situation of the world economy. After the great world crisis in the 1930's, President Roosevelt came up with the New Deal program, based on Keynesian theories regarding the state's involvement in the economy. At that time, the program was given all kinds of labels, and was even said to show leanings toward socialism, or cryptocommunism, as some would say today. Therefore, if President Roosevelt came to power with a liberal theory, Clinton won on the basis of a platform that presupposes a broader and more direct involvement of the administration in the problems facing the U.S. economy.

What is the meaning of the current U.S.-Europe dispute on agricultural and food products? Well, it refers to the involvement of the state in protecting the national production and producers. What about our negotiations

with the Common Market and the EEC restrictions on imports of steel, textile, and agricultural food products? The states are becoming involved in defending their own markets and producers. Therefore, in all these matters, I believe that we should become more realistic, take note of the national and world economic reality, and jointly search for the best solutions to promote economic reform and build a viable, efficient, and modern market economy to the benefit of all, with minimal social costs. This is the basic idea behind the FDSN program, my message, and the first draft of the Vacaroiu government's ruling program.

I understand the opposition's psychology, since this is the role of the opposition, namely to criticize. However, at this time, given the hardships with which we are faced, it is necessary to cooperate for the sake of national interests. In my message to Parliament, I emphasized in a principled way the irreversible nature of the processes that have occurred in Romania's political life and the inevitable deepening of the processes of overall democratization of the social life, the assertion of the state of law, and the transition toward a market economy, which is irrevocable. I pointed out what the state and government should and should not do. I emphasized that there can be no return to any kind of central administrative guidance from the state.

Of course, we are faced with complex and complicated problems. A theoretical discussion of these transition problems and the way in which the state and the government should become more or less involved in the economy, depending on extant circumstances and various situations, can only be useful and necessary. I even called on all experts and the entire Romanian intelligentsia to become involved in working out a national strategy for the future development of the economy. Such a strategy can also provide corroboration to future government policies in this respect.

Right now, I consider it more imperative to show national solidarity around a government which has assumed a difficult responsibility. There are the concrete problems of getting through this winter by ensuring the people's supply of basic foodstuffs, energy, and heating; making preparations for 1993; preparing the 1993 budget; halting the production decline, primarily the decline of the industrial production; ensuring the agricultural production in 1993—in this respect, we are in a somewhat better position regarding the fall sowing operations at the end of this year, compared to last year; reducing the inflationist curve; launching the effort to create new jobs, by stimulating activities in industry, agriculture, tourism, and services and giving incentives to private initiative in this respect, to small- and medium-sized enterprises particularly in the productive and service sector; promoting investments as of 1993 in the basic fields of infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, transportation, and housing; and attracting foreign investments in these efforts. Aside from that, there is the state's main and essential role of ensuring public order, quiet, and stability in the country, defending the citizens, and combating corruption with more efficient legislative and control measures.

This is what I had to say in a few words. Of course, this does not mean that I identify myself with the Vacaroiu government. There was some talk about that, too, to the extent that this would be a presidential government, subordinated to the president, or on the president's liking, and so forth. We have a clear and definite framework that defines the role of each state institution. The Vacaroiu government assumed full responsibility for its future tasks. The relations between the president and the government will be in keeping with the Constitution stipulations. Likewise, in accordance with the Constitution provisions, I will do my best to ensure a fertile and constructive dialogue between the legislative and executive branches in order to solve the difficult and big problems facing the Romanian economy and society.

Now, a few words about my visit to France. This is my first visit abroad after the elections. In my previous statements, I emphasized the political significance attached to this visit, as part of our constant foreign policy orientation toward Europe, and the desire to emphasize the privileged relations we want to maintain with France. As a matter of fact, this visit was scheduled to take place last summer, but was postponed because of President Mitterrand's surgery. In our contacts and political discussions, we noted a greater receptiveness to Romanian realities and the interest shown by businessmen in joint ventures and in expanding cooperation with Romania. I visited one of the greatest construction companies in the world, the Bouygues company, which is involved in a special project in Bucharest, namely the construction of a large international trade center, and which is also interested in a number of other large investment projects in Constanta, telecommunications and energy sectors, and completing the [nuclear plant] project in Cernavoda.

I also came across a certain degree of reticence and prejudice, particularly from certain representatives of the press, the result—as I called it there, too—of a certain ideological intoxication, which is also familiar to us, too, and which we thought as characteristic of the totalitarian regime we have left behind, and which we want to leave behind for good, in all respects. Well, this ideological intoxication is present on a larger scale. I was told various things by certain people there, who were fed information from back home, of course; as some people told me there, in the last instance, nobody can do more harm than your own people, both politicians and journalists, who are unable to disconnect yet from the electoral climate. In the last instance, such statements and campaigns have an antinational connotation. Whether they want it or not, the attacks against a certain person or disputes among parties produce an unfavorable image of the country, which is affecting national interests.

I do not believe that we stand to gain from the psychology of the worse it is, the better for us. This psychology seems to govern the thinking of some people. Such mentalities cannot serve national interests.

I would also like to mention an intervention of [former Prime Minister] Mr. Barre in connection with the reaction of the French press, which he criticized for a certain note of instigation of the public opinion. I would like to point out that the press should inform and contribute to an objective discussion of the major problems facing the society. Press material designed to instigate public opinion cannot serve the country's interests. Therefore, he spoke out for a deontological code, which should be worked out by the journalists themselves for the press and press behavior. I thought it worth dwelling a little on this matter. Do not take my statements as containing any reproaches. As I said, our wish is to ensure broad openness, clarity, and permanent communication with the press. We want to maintain a permanent dialogue. We are open and receptive to all suggestions. We would also like to call on the press to lend us active support for our activity, not only in our dealings with the press, but also for our overall activity.

I am not yet in a position to give you an answer to a likely question about the presidential staff and its structure. I did not have enough time to complete this action. We are engaged in a discussion on an overall restructuring of the presidential apparatus, so as to make it more subtle, efficient, active, and open, including relations with the press. I hope to conclude these discussions in a week or two and finalize the structure and composition of the presidential staff.

This was my introductory speech. Now, you may ask your questions.

Holds News Conference

AU2611163492

[Editorial Report] Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian at 1020 GMT on 26 November carries a one-hour and 44-minute live relay of a news conference given by President Ion Iliescu in Bucharest's Cotroceni Palace. Before answering questions, Iliescu makes an 17-minute introductory statement on the government's priorities and his recent visit to France. A one hour, 27-minute question-and-answer session follows.

Asked to comment on the "recent accord signed in Budapest by Russia and Hungary" and its "implications for Romania," Iliescu says: "I discussed this matter in Paris, too. In my opinion, the provisions of this accord and the positions expressed by both Hungary and Russia, through President Yeltsin, do not conform with European and international norms concerning the status of minorities and can be dangerous with respect to the future evolution of things. I said that they also denote a certain imperial nostalgia, on both sides, while the pretension of wanting to protect minorities on the territories of other independent states appears to me quite dangerous for the relations among states on our continent. Hungary is not alone in having 5 million nationals in the territory of other states. Romania also has some 7 million nationals outside its borders. What if we were also to assume the right to declare ourselves the protectors of these Romanians, thus affecting the relations of these citizens of other states with the respective states?

"I believe that the status of national minorities is a matter pertaining to relations between each state and its own minorities. This was the essence of my statements to LE FIGARO, which rendered exactly the passage about the lessons that the West can deliver us in this respect, that is regarding our policy toward the minorities. The only policy of the West toward minorities has been one of assimilation of ethnic minorities, not of creating conditions like the ones we are ensuring, in our circumstances. Therefore, we cannot take the Western policy vis-a-vis minorities as a model. It would mean that all schools should be exclusively operated in Romanian language and all public institutions should use only the Romanian language. Therefore, this was the gist of my statements, and this is how we assess and evaluate the connotations of that understanding, which can be dangerous for international relations. I issued a warning in this respect, on the way in which we should approach this problem.

"Some clarifications have already been made. I noted that Russia's foreign minister is trying to give assurances that this does not affect in the least our relations with other states. However, I consider the way in which they raise the problem of the Russian minorities living in the independent states of the former Soviet Union as incorrect and not in accordance with the principles of the relations among independent and sovereign states, included in all European and other documents.

"As for President Yeltsin's visit to Romania, at the respective time, in view of the tension caused by the Dniester conflict in the eastern parts of Moldova, we jointly thought it useful to postpone that visit for a quieter time. We hope that this visit will eventually take place, at a propitious time, when we will also have made progress in working out the draft treaty between the two countries."

Answering another question about the social problems of the young generation, Iliescu invokes the need for a "spirit of dialogue" that should prevail in the relations with the young people.

Concerning the confirmation of Virgil Magureanu to the position of director of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI), Iliescu says that this is the Parliament's task. All he knows is that "the SRI is preparing a report on the institution's activity, which will be submitted to Parliament, which will then validate it or not. It is more a matter of scheduling that appearance before the Parliament."

Asked whether he will meet with U.S. Senator Tom Lantos (most prominent representative of the Hungarian

lobby in Washington), who is scheduled to visit Bucharest this week, Iliescu says: "About Tom Lantos, I received no request for a meeting, that is all I can tell you so far."

Iliescu then answers several questions related to the implementation of the law on land privatization, where he sees the delays as being caused by "technicalities" in the allotment of ownership titles, and to the need to solve the major problems in housing.

Asked about the recent visit to Romania of a delegation of the NATO Political Committee led by its chairman John Kriendler, Iliescu says Romania's fully supports NATO's "partnership" concept, which aims to "strengthen NATO's political role in Europe." He says that the delegation "positively assessed the fact that, in the very volatile situation prevailing in this part of Europe, right now Romania is a land of relative stability, which has a positive impact on the situation in the region."

Answering a question about Romania's unification with Moldova, Iliescu says: "I have discussed this issue before; the feelings all of us have, our desires and aspirations, and the question of historic justice are one thing, while the political reality that exists today is another. As I have said before, what is essential at this time is to consolidate the status of independence and sovereignty of Moldova as a first step. Second, together we have worked out a program for economic, cultural, spiritual, and humanitarian integration of the two Romanian states that exist today," which "is a process that has to be followed up with tangible actions." He stresses that "we are acting in this direction, and we want to give more substance to the program for joint action of the two governments to develop direct economic relations and achieve the economic integration of the two republics."

In answer to a question about "ideological intoxication" perpetrated by the press, Iliescu criticizes such discussions and attempts to foment "general suspicion about the status of various people" who, "in one way or another were linked to and had responsibility during the former regime." He deplores the fact that he is constantly criticized for having held the position of Central Committee secretary, while other such international figures like Tudjman, Yeltsin, or Kravchuk are not accused by the media in their countries. He stresses that such "ideological intoxication" does not "benefit political activity in our country," nor does it "benefit international relations." Iliescu argues that "we have much too serious problems" to place emphasis on such issues. He calls for "reconciliation" and the "unity of forces" in solving the "difficult problems faced by Romanian society, namely to consolidate the political processes" and to tackle the problems of "economic changes."

In answer to a question regarding his statement in Paris according to which Romania "will not serve as a smokescreen for an intervention in Yugoslavia," and Romania's participation in the Istanbul meeting, Iliescu says that "we are living in an inconvenient area; Romania's geostrategic situation imposes numerous difficult conditions" and "it is not easy to get out of these difficult conditions. However, I think that we have adopted a principled position in this respect, which helps us tackle each conflict in a rational way." He continues to say that "Romania will never get involved in" or "be used for expanding the military conflict in this area. As far as control measures for applying the embargo according to the Security Council decision are concerned, we are members of this international body and obligated to observe these measures of the international organization." He adds that "our government has taken appropriate measures, and we have even called for international cooperation regarding this control linked to suspicions" that Romania "allegedly had violated this embargo." He also says that as far as the Danube River is concerned, "we can control our own ships and Romanian ports, but we cannot take the liberty to stop and search ships under foreign states' flags." In conclusion he stresses the need for joint efforts to achieve a better monitoring of Danube traffic heading for Yugoslavia.

Asked about the "social market economy" promoted by Prime Minister Vacaroiu and whether Romania is heading for a capitalist type of market economy or a social market economy like that in Scandinavian countries, Iliescu theorizes about the market economy in general and emphasizes that the nuances of this process depend on the development stage of the given countries. In this context he stresses that "the element of social protection has become an active and permanent component in all present-day economies."

Regarding the privatization process and its prospects in Romania, Iliescu says that "privatization is a lengthy process." To demonstrate this, Iliescu cites such examples as Hungary and Poland, where this process started a long time ago, while in England it took 10 years. In this context he mentions the lack of financial resources and limited foreign capital, because of world recession. He continues to say that "in the world strategy, Romania's role is negligible; in addition, we are not liked by certain business circles, while Russia is a zone of great economic interest. The collapse of Russia is dangerous for world balance. This is why the U.S. and European countries have declared their interest in helping Russia, so that it will not collapse."

Iliescu continues to say that "the privatization of large enterprises has to be viewed realistically, with open eyes to ascertain what the situation is" and how this process can progress.

Asked to comment on Romania's image abroad, Iliescu says that this image depends on "domestic and foreign factors" and that improving this image "depends on the contribution of all of us—politicians, political forces, mass media, press, our representatives abroad, our situation at home," giving an impetus to the economy, and presenting a "correct picture of Romanian society."

Regarding Nicu Ceausescu's release from prison, Iliescu declines responsibility in this court decision but views it as a humanitarian gesture when bearing in mind Nicu Ceausescu's health.

Asked to comment on Romania's economic situation, Iliescu talks about the "crisis generated by the transition process, the demolition of former economic structures and mechanisms," coupled "with the world economy crisis," which "are sources of difficulties." He stresses that the "collapse of CEMA deprived us of an important source of raw materials and energy," and this situation "worsened because of the crisis in the Gulf and Yugoslavia." He explains that the Roman and Stolojan governments "dealt with these problems of the transition more or less skillfully."

Answering a question about "foreign investors' reticence" to invest in Romania, Iliescu says that this reticence is mainly due to fears of "political instability, tension, including war" in Romania's geographic area. "However," he says, "we could be more optimistic," because "lately one can note greater understanding."

In answer to a question about the state's involvement in the economy, Iliescu says that "the state is involved through all its institutions and primarily through lawmaking and government," but this does not mean "returning to administrative dictatorship" with "centralized state planning."

Asked to comment on the "recently announced price hikes by Prime Minister Vacaroiu" and on people's reaction to them, Iliescu says that there is not much the government can do at this time to halt inflation because this process is "linked to the situation of the Romanian economy, especially to the decline in outputs." He says that "those sectors that are able to restore the production process have to be encouraged, as has the investment process to help modernize certain sectors," to make "our economic activity more competitive." He explains that "price hikes are not generated by the government but by the situation of the economy. He continues to say that "public reaction cannot be anything but negative."

Regarding Romania's image, he says that things have to be presented more objectively by the press, that "we have to do everything better," and "we have to be known and understood better."

To a last question about his intention to "maintain a constant dialogue with legal and executive bodies, and with political and social forces involved in the process of changes," Iliescu says that "as far as the dialogue is concerned, I started it immediately after the elections with the political forces regarding the parliament activity and the formation of the government." He expresses the hope that "the necessary understanding will be achieved," and that "useful dialogue will continue between government and legal bodies. I personally will try to act as mediator in this contact, this dialogue."

Concerning foreign contacts, Iliescu says that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will conduct consultations within a council "on the drafting of foreign policy laws." He says that "relations with the Romanian diaspora have to be developed to a greater extent," and that "any such contacts and relations are welcome." He continues to stress the importance of consulting domestic and foreign specialists on "reform issues and especially on the strategy of developing the national economy."

In conclusion, Iliescu thanks the audience for attending the news conference.

Croats, Serbs Agree to Cease-Fire Terms

LD2511150392 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1357 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, Doboj, 25 Nov (TANJUG)—Representatives of the Army of the Serb Republic (in Bosnia-Hercegovina) and a special envoy of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, (retired corps General) Anun Tus, have reached an agreement on cessation of hostilities in northern Bosnia and the withdrawal of the Croatian forces from the area, a TANJUG correspondent has learned from Serb military sources in Doboj.

The news about the agreement was confirmed today by the SRNA news agency, which said that the agreement was reached at a meeting held yesterday in Bosanski Brod. The General Staff of the Army of the Serb Republic had not confirmed this officially by 1400, nor had the Republic of Croatia.

The Croatian side, according to Serb military sources in Doboj, pledged to withdraw the 111th and 122d Brigade of the Croatian National Guard Corps from the (Bosnian) Posavina [Sava River basin] region, that is, from Orasje and the villages of Donja Mahala, Tolisa and Domaljevac by 28 November. In line with this agreement, Croatia also will withdraw the command staff and all citizens of the Republic of Croatia who are currently in the 102d, 103d, 104th and 105th brigades of the Croat Defense Council. The Croatian authorities also pledged to accept on its territory all Croats who express a desire to leave areas from which Croatian units are to withdraw.

The Serb side has pledged not to open fire on the Croatian towns of Zupanja, Slavonski Brod, Djakovo, Vinkovci and Slavonska Pozega [all in Slavonia]. It has also agreed to open direct telephone links between the command of the Serb forces in Bijeljina and Croatian forces in Djakovo, so that the implementation of the cease-fire agreement is monitored efficiently.

The two sides also agreed to exchange prisoners in Dragalic, western Slavonia, on 29 November.

Karadzic Seeks 'Territorial Division'

LD2611221992 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2103 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Nov (TANJUG)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Serb Republic [of Bosnia-Hercegovina], told TANJUG today that he expects the military representatives of the Serb Republic and Republic of Croatia to reach agreement on the withdrawal of the Croatian army from the area of the Serb Republic. Karadzic stressed that today's meeting in Sarajevo between Lieutenant Colonel-General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Serb forces; and General Janko Bobetko, chief of the Croatian Army General Staff, was the first meeting at the highest army level between the Republic of Croatia and the Serb Republic [of Bosnia-Hercegovina].

In Karadzic's view the achievement of an agreement on the withdrawal of Croatian forces would open up the possibility of a definite historic agreement between the Serbs and Croats. "This would perhaps include territorial division, which would open a new page in negotiations between the two nations," Karadzic stressed. The leader of the Bosnian Serbs assessed that it is not in the interests of either the Serbs or Croats to continue the war, which could last for decades, bring fresh casualties, and cost several hundred billion dollars.

Mladic, Morillon Agree on Aid Convoy Passage

AU2611194392 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Sarajevo, Nov 26 (AFP)—General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Serbian Bosnian military, pledged Thursday to allow a blocked humanitarian aid convoy into the besieged Moslem town of Srebrenica on Friday.

The agreement was thrashed out with General Philippe Morillon, commander of the U.N. peacekeeping forces, during talks Thursday afternoon in Sarajevo, a U.N. spokesman told AFP.

The convoy of 150 tonnes has been blocked at Ljubovija near Bratunac on the Bosnian-Serb border since Wednesday, where Serbian gunmen acting on orders from superiors had refused to allow the aid through.

Bosnian sources said 80,000 people face starvation in Srebrenica. Two earlier attempts by U.N. convoys to reach the city were blocked by crowds of Serbian women in the town of Bratunac, 10 kilometers (six miles) from Srebrenica.

Some 200 Serbian women protested in Bratunac Thursday against the latest aid effort, chanting slogans like "Moslems go and live in Turkey."

Mladic had pledged "the convoy would reach Srebrenica before nightfall Friday," the U.N. spokesman said, but would take a different route to the one chosen by the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which organised the operation.

The Serb commander said the convoy had been stopped in part because the route it wanted to take had been mined, the spokesman said.

The five-hour Morillon-Mladic talks also focused on the conditions needed to created a lasting ceasefire in Bosnia- Hercegovina.

Earlier Thursday a U.N. aid convoy managed to enter the besieged Moslem-held town of Gorazde east of Sarajevo where an estimated 100,000 were threatened with famine after an eight-month blocade.

That convoy had been prevented reaching the town Wednesday after a convoy vehicle struck a mine.

Serb General Refuses To Sign Prior Agreement

LD2711105192 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina reports that General Ratko Mladic refuses to sign the cease-fire agreement reached two weeks ago. The same source reports that fighting continues on all major battlefields in Bosnia-Hercegovina, including Gradacac, Maglaj, and Brcko—in the north—Olovo, Travnik, and Mostar. It adds that helicopters continue to overfly Bosnia despite the UN decision on a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Hercegovina. Sarajevo radio reported that Mladic refused to sign an agreement confirming the cease-fire during yesterday's talks with UN Commander General Philippe Morillon.

Comment Says Europe To Blame for Islamic Role

AU2511182192 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Hercegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Zija Dizdarevic commentary]

[Text] This is the first time that the Islamic Conference Organization will discuss the situation in a European country, or to be more precise, the aggression against one, and the attitude of the EC and the West in general toward that problem. So another foreign affairs precedent is being set with Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The United States and Europe find it only natural that they should get involved in problems throughout the world, depending on their interests. At the same time, the West, or rather Europe in this case, does not like anyone else meddling in issues that it regards as exclusively its own. This explains the anxiety in Europe over the possibility of a deepening of the religious component, with potential political repercussions stemming from the fuller engagement of Islamic countries upon the issue of the aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina.

On the other hand, Europe is fully aware of the potential of the Islamic countries, particularly those whose international status is intimately related to the world importance of oil. Europe cannot understand the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina to be primarily a nation that, in its basic features and aims, fully identifies with the European citizens' aspirations; in other words, it is not a foreign body in the European organism, but a European nation most of whose members are not after all inherently religious. The prejudice-ridden West, when it comes to understanding the Bosnia-Hercegovina question, does not know what to do about the Muslims. Acts of genocide, particularly against that nation, have not been met with adequate responses. So, among other things, a distorted and dangerous thesis is emerging on the creation of security zones to protect the Muslims along the same lines as was done for the Kurds in Iraq.

The foreign mass media and the political lexicon have also settled for the idea of three armies with national and religious prefixes. There is frequent talk of the mujahedin, either as fighters from this region or alleged imported fighters. In this regard, a passage from the letter Izetbegovic recently sent to Vance is intriguing, as it warns that the continuation of the aggression could lead to the transformation of the conflict into a religious war. Without going into the reasons for mentioning that issue in the letter, we have to underline that warning tone. The last thing Bosnia-Hercegovina needs is to have its liberation war reduced to a religious war, and not only because that would be dancing to the ideological and propaganda tune of the greater Serbian aggressor. It is simply that reducing it to a religious war does not reflect the truth and would damage the transnational patriotic resistance front, perhaps fatally.

No one, however, can criticize Bosnia-Hercegovina for asking for a more intensive engagement by the Islamic countries. These countries want to and can help. The West has made room for a fuller involvement of the Islamic countries, particularly Europe with its ignorance and lack of will to make the right moves. That is why the character and level of the engagement of the Islamic countries concerning the aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina depends on the willingness and ability of the West to adjust its policies to the essence of the problem.

Iran's Velayati Invites Izetbegovic to Islamic Talks

LD2711123192 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1141 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, Nov 27 (TANJUG)—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati proposed to Bosnia Moslem Leader Alija Izetbegovic, to take part in a meeting of the Islamic conference on Bosnia scheduled for early December in Jeddah.

Upon his return from the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia on Friday, Velayati told Iranian radio that he had twice spoken on the phone with Izetbegovic on the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, FRANCE PRESS said.

On Thursday Velayati discussed the war in Bosnia with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. We agreed that "Iran, Bosnia and Croatia should expand their cooperation," the Iranian foreign minsiter said. My visit to Sarajevo was prevented by the representatives of Western countries which control the Zagreb-Sarajevo air corridor, Velayati said. He described this move as "the result of special discrimination" and efforts to prevent him from meeting with Izetbegovic.

The United Nations representatives in Zagreb denied this, saying that Velayati's private plane was not allowed to take off out of technical reasons.

General Tus Denies Truce Signed With Serb Army

LD2611145392 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] A denial has been issued from the office of the chief military adviser to the president of the republic in connection with a TANJUG report carried yesterday by Belgrade radio and television, claiming that General Anton Tus, as emissary of the president of the republic, conducted talks and signed an agreement with representatives of the (Bosnian) Serb Army.

In the denial Gen. Tus states: I have not signed any agreement or even held talks with representatives of the Serb Army. I have not been outside Zagreb and therefore not in Bosanski Brod. This is a deceit on the part of the enemy directed against the Republic of Croatia and me personally.

Commanders on Croatian-Serb Cease-Fire Agreement

LD2611183592 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1403 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Knin, 26 Nov (TANJUG)—By signing the agreement between the Croatian military authorities and the Serb Republic [in Bosnia-Hercegovina] on the withdrawal of the Croatian forces from [Bosnian] Posavina [the Sava river basin] region, Croatia has for the first time admitted publicly that its forces are in that part of Bosnia, Major General Mile Novakovic, commander of the Republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] Army, told TANJUG today.

Stating that this region is also very important for the RSK because the corridor to Yugoslavia goes through it, he said "the Croatian side did not agree to withdraw its units as a sign of goodwill, but was forced to agree to it due to the balance of military power."

Gen. Novakovic then warned that "this could be also a part of preparations for offensive actions in other areas, which we take into account."

Lieutenant Colonel General Milan Torbica, former commander of the Krajina forces, noted that the balance of military power forced the Croatian side to realize finally that it was unwelcome in the Orasje area.

He said that, according to his information, there was unrest, even mutiny in Croatian units in that region. Gen. Torbica is very cautious about the final outcome, noting that Croatia has been violating many agreements.

Iranian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Tudjman Receives Velayati

LD2611115092 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman today at the presidential palace received a delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran led by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the president's office has announced. In their talks, both sides expressed satisfaction with the development so far of interstate relations, especially in the economic sphere. The Croatian side informed its high-ranking guests that it had named an ambassador to Iran.

Reference was also made to the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. In this context the Croatian side reaffirmed its support for the autonomy and independence of that neighboring state, emphasizing that a political solution to the crisis could be reached on the basis of an agreement between the three constituent nations living there. The agreement would imply a high degree of autonomy and human rights guarantees for minorities.

The evidence that the Republic of Croatia is interested in the fate of Bosnia-Hercegovina is the care of almost half a million Bosnia-Hercegovina refugees, 80 percent of whom are Muslim. This is an enormous burden on the Croatian economy.

In the talks the need was stressed for comprehensive and urgent help for Croatia.

The Croatian side also expressed its dissatisfaction with the work of the UN Protection Force and the slow pace at which the Vance plan is being implemented, stressing that if the peace forces fail to execute their task within the given deadline, their mission will no longer serve any purpose once their mandate expires next March.

In addition to President Tudjman, the following also took part in the talks: Dr. Jure Radic, head of the president's office; Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Miomir Zuzul; and presidential advisers.

Additional Details Reported

LD2611174892 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] [No dateline as received] Iran and Croatia have reached an agreement in principle to form with Bosnia-Hercegovina a tripartite commission to coordinate their actions in face of the current bloody war in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

The agreement was reached in today's meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Croatian President, Franjo Tudjman, according to an Iranian official source. The source did not elaborate on the configuration and scope of the actions of the commission.

In the two hour meeting, the two sides called for the development of bilateral cooperation in the framework of their joint economic commission. They also exchanged views on the different aspects of the current cruel aggression on Bosnia-Hercegovina, the same source said.

President Tudjman appreciated Iran's humanitarian assistance both to people of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said that a joint history and a common

language closely connects Croatia with Bosnia-Hercegovina. He called for a more active UN role in bringing an end both to the Serbian crimes and to the sufferings of war refugees.

Velayati briefed Tudjman on the current efforts by the Islamic countries in relation with the Bosnian drama, especially the coming meeting of foreign ministers of member countries of Islamic Conference, which at the request of Iran is to be held in December 1st and 2nd in Saudi Arabia.

"We made it crystal clear to our Croatian friends that the expansion of relations with Croatia is very much dependent on the degree of cooperation between Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina," Velayati told IRNA after his talks with President Tudjman.

"We believe that a common enemy and many historic and cultural facts make it inevitable that Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina could and must have very close relations," Velayati said.

The Iranian delegation which was supposed to visit Sarajevo could not leave today for the Bosnian besieged capital due to "technical problems," as announced.

Velayati had a telephone conversation with Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic this afternoon.

The delegation will visit a Bosnian refugee camp near Zagreb this evening and will leave for Tehran tonight.

Announces Aid to Bosnia via Croatia

LD2611182392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati announced in Zagreb today that despite the efforts of some countries to prevent the presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in the Balkan region, Iran will continue its aid to the Bosnian Muslims in line with its humanitarian endeavors. He also urged international forums to pay serious attention to the war-stricken Bosnian people. Our correspondent reports from Zagreb:

[Unidentified correspondent] Referring to the IRI's commitment to international law, Mr. Velayati said: The IRI and Croatia have reached agreement on sending Iranian aid to the Bosnian Muslims through Croatia. He referred to the upcoming Jeddah session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization member-states, and recalled the IRI's efforts in convening that session. He added: Undoubtedly the IRI will have an active role in the decisions taken there.

Continuing, our country's foreign minister stressed that the Serbs committing aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina have all types of weapons at their disposal through Serbia, and he expressed the hope that in the future gathering of the Islamic states' foreign ministers in Jeddah, maximum efforts will be made to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Velayati Cancels Sarajevo Visit

LD2611150892 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Zagreb, Nov. 26, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently here on an official visit, Thursday cancelled his scheduled visit to Sarajevo, despite efforts made by international circles.

Following the shelling of a French aircraft carrying relief supplies to Bosnia-Hercegovina by the Serbs Wednesday night, Germany and France suspended all their relief flights to the embattled capital of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

According to an informed source, France and Germany had promised to help arrange a flight for Velayati and the accompanying delegation from Zagreb to Sarajevo. However, they suspended their U.N.-supervised flights after several bullets fired by the Serbs hit the French aircraft.

Meanwhile, President Alija Izetbegovic told the Iranian foreign minister by telephone that he had launched fresh efforts through international circles to make Velayati's visit to Sarajevo possible. However, till now the prevailing conditions have prevented the Iranian foreign minister from travelling to the Bosnian capital.

Velayati arrived in Zagreb Wednesday for talks on bilateral relations and fate of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

[Paris AFP in English at 0115 GMT on 27 November reports on a news conference Velayati held in Zagreb on 26 November, saying: "The Iranian delegation, which arrived in Croatia on Wednesday evening, was barred from using the United Nations airlift into Sarajevo, and Velayati said he thought that Western countries had probably been against his planned visit."

["Asked at a press conference whether the Islamic countries intended to intervene militarily in Bosnia, Velayati said that such an intervention would only occur 'under international legislation.'"]

Speaker Receives Velayati

NC2611074392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Croatian Speaker Stepan Mesic met on ways to extend assistance to the war-stricken people in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Our correspondent reports from Zagreb that Velayati criticized the stand taken by international forums and stressed that the indifference shown by international circles has helped intensify clashes in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The Croatian speaker described

the current situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and criticized the approach by international forums—especially the UN Security Council—toward the massacre of the people in that republic. He stressed that the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis cannot be solved without military intervention. The two sides agreed on forming a joint Iranian-Croatian economic commission.

Wounded Bosnians To Fly to Tehran

LD2611102992 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Zagreb, Nov. 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Wednesday condemned the heedlessness of international organisations towards the Serbs atrocities and blamed the escalation of the deplorable events in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia on this indifference.

Velayati who arrived here Wednesday made the remark in a meeting with the Croatian Speaker of Parliament Stepan Mesic. [passage omitted]

In another development, a source at the Iranian Embassy here said that 86 wounded Bosnian combatants are to be transferred to Tehran on an Iranian airplane.

This would be the first batch of wounded Bosnian combatants to be transferred to Iran. An Iranian airplane carrying aid is scheduled to land in Split Thursday and transfer the wounded Bosnians on its return flight to Tehran.

Tripartite Commission Planned

LD2611145292 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Zagreb, Nov. 26, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Croatia reached agreement here today on setting up a tripartite commission along with Bosnia.

The agreement was announced after a two-hour negotiation between Iran's Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. An Iranian delegate to the talks which disclosed this, did not provide further details on the task of the commission.

The two officials called for expansion of mutual cooperation in the framework of Tehran-Zagreb joint economic commission and ways of putting an end to the Serbian systematic aggression by means of international forums.

The Croatian president appreciated Iran's humanitarian aid to Bosnians and Croatians.

Referring to the historical bonds and the common language between Bosnian and Croatian people, Tudjman called on the United Nations to stop the Serbian crimes and the bitter tragedy in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Velayati described the formation of the trilateral commission with participation of Bosnia as "very significant" and assured the Croatian president that he would raise the results of his negotiations with Croatian officials in the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Krajina Serbs Make New Torture Allegations

AU2411180892 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] The command of Krajina operational group Lika claims that some 3,000 Serbs living in Croatian-controlled Lika is again suffering increased torture. This refers to the Serbs who live in the surroundings of Gospic and around Otocac.

During the recent war, the Croatian Army held the Serbs in this region in total isolation, without any medical protection and without supplying them with bare essentials for life. The same source claims that there were also reports of executions of Serbian civilians.

The command of Krajina operational group Lika will soon demand detailed information about the fate of the Serbs in this part of Lika from the civilian issues office of the UN Protection Force in Sector South.

Krajina Minister Says UNPROFOR Not Threatened

LD2411182292 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1719 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Nov (TANJUG)—Slobodan Jarcevic, foreign minister of the Republic of Serb Krajina [RSK], today informed Cedric Thornberry, UN protection force [UNPROFOR] deputy head, that the Serb police in Erdut had not threatened UNPROFOR, but had issued "well-intentioned warnings," the ISKRA [Krajina Serbs] news agency reports.

The letter is in fact a reply to Thornberry's warning to Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic regarding alleged threats by the Erdut police issued during the visit of Vance and Owen, the cochairmen of the conference on former Yugoslavia, that any helicopter that flew over the RSK without being announced would be shot down.

Jarcevic noted that "the sky over the RSK is very dangerous for airships, since aircraft of the Croatian Air Force are flying over the RSK territory daily." He explained that the UN was warned to report its flights to the RSK authorities so that they could be differentiated from enemy aircraft and could look after UN airships.

Panic in Bonn for Talks With Kohl, Other Leaders

LD2611114892 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1053 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Bonn, Nov 26 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic arrived here on Thursday for talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Helmut [as received] Kinkel on the war in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and settlement of the Yugoslav crisis.

Panic is also scheduled to meet with leader of the Social Democratic Party in Bundestag Hans-Ulrich Klose and members of Bundestag's Foreign Policy Committee.

Radio Interview

AU2611150292 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0600 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Interview with FRY Prime Minister Milan Panic by an unidentified reporter on 25 November; place not given—recorded; Panic statements in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Reporter] Milan Panic, prime minister of the remainder of Yugoslavia, will visit Bonn today. He will hold talks with FRG Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Yesterday human rights organizations criticized these upcoming talks sharply. Panic was accused of sharing the responsibility for the murders in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

I had the opportunity to talk to Milan Panic yesterday evening, and I asked him what he expects of his visit to Bonn under these circumstances:

[Panic] I think that the German people should not be the victims of false propaganda. The government of Milan Panic is a government of peace. We are against any genocide and murders in general.

From the first day of my term, I have advocated peace in the Balkans. My 12-point program for the United Nations was the basis for the Yugoslavia conference in London. Your listeners in Germany should pray for me, so that I can bring peace.

The accusation of genocide is unfair. Those who are making it should rather pray in church for peace because Panic stands for peace. The alternative to Panic would not be a good one for Germany. Those who are against Panic are against peace. How often have I said that I am against ethnic cleansing? I put people in jail who promoted ethnic cleansing. I exchanged prisoners. I signed agreements with Croatia to achieve peace. I helped to solve the refugee problem, to open roads, and to organize humanitarian help. Milan Panic does not believe in capital punishment. How can it occur to anybody to connect me with genocide?

Let me tell you one thing: Just as the Nazis are a disgraceful part of German history, we are also at a disgraceful stage of our history. Do not make us too shameful!

[Reporter] Is this really only propaganda? Do you want to say that there are no human rights violations in Bosnia-Hercegovina?

[Panic] Absolutely correct. Human rights are violated in every corner, everywhere in the Balkans. You must understand that these people lived under communism for 40 years. Human rights are still a strange idea to them. We must first explain to them what human rights are. I myself became a refugee under Tito because of human rights violations. I went to Germany, where I was received and recognized as a political refugee, and then I went to to America. Now I have come back to Europe to possibly teach human rights, of which I was deprived once.

[Reporter] Do you want to deny that the Serbian troops in Bosnia-Hercegovina are supplied by Serbia with fuel and ammunition, for example?

[Panic] No, I do not deny anything. I can bring you some facts: Now, today, airplanes no longer fly from Yugoslavia, where I am the prime minister, over Bosnia-Hercegovina because UN observers, whose presence I myself requested, are at our airports. I think that the Yugoslav Army of the Yugoslav Serbs should no longer help the Serbs in Bosnia. This is their own business. We also asked the United Nations to control all borders, which apparently is to be done now. I ordered the Yugoslav Army, which is a new troop, to follow these instructions. I have the impression that this is basically being carried out. However, you must also understand that it is very difficult for humanitarian reasons not to provide the Serbs in Bosnia with help from the Serbs in Yugoslavia.

But we do not think that the war is good. The Serbs in Bosnia should stop fighting. We also ask all Germans to ask Croats and Muslims to stop fighting, so that we might have peace.

[Reporter] Is this also the opinion of President Milosevic?

[Panic] I am fighting against Milosevic, and I hope he loses the election on 20 December.

[Reporter] Do you want to say that Milosevic is the real warmonger?

[Panic] I am an opponent of Mr. Milosevic. I offer peace. I do not know what he offers. I offer change. I do not know his offer. I offer the return to the world community, including Germany, which I consider our friend. I do not know what he offers. As a matter of fact, I think that everyone in Yugoslavia thinks like this, and I hope that all will vote for peace-loving and honorable candidates who are against ethnic cleansing and for tolerance, for those who are for our friend Germany and who

believe that we will able to live together with the rest of the world as before, as proud Serbs in Yugoslavia!

[Reporter] What do you expect of Germany?

[Panic] Assistance. I expect great support and help in the democratization process in Yugoslavia, which I am leading. The alternative to the Cosic-Panic government would not be a good one. We offer peace. We offer tolerance. We offer the recognition of all borders within the former Yugoslavia. We think that there should be an economic union between the republics of former Yugoslavia because the individual republics are not strong economic units. We also expect the FRG Government to resolutely influence Croatia to withdraw its troops from Bosnia and to stop fighting, as I am influencing the Serbs to do the same.

I expect Bonn to support my attempt to get inviolable borders and the world public's understanding for our problem. I expect German help in the political solution of the problems in Yugoslavia. That includes Kosovo, Vojvodina, and other areas. I think that this will be possible with German help because the Panic government and President Cosic offer the alternative of peace. The opposite is war and disaster in the Balkans and possibly in Europe.

Holds News Conference

AU2611213992 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic has ended his visit to Bonn. Slobodan Jankovic reports on Prime Minister Panic's visit and talks:

[Jankovic] Our prime minister was more than one hour late for the scheduled news conference, where he was awaited by over 100 impatient local reporters, along with those who traveled from Belgrade with Milan Panic.

He did not have much to tell them. His partners in talks in Bonn obviously did not have much will nor wish to hear every detail of what the guest from Belgrade tried to explained them. Both Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Kinkel told Milan Panic what the stand of their government is on the situation in the former Yugoslavia, particularly on the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina, which was the main topic of talks today.

Mr. Kinkel insisted in particular on the responsibility of Milan Panic for the continuation of the war and demanded that he influence Bosnian Serbs to stop fighting.

All in all, our prime minister is returning to Belgrade tonight without any sensational success and promises. However, he is richer by one more dialogue with the politicians of one of the leading world political centers, Bonn. This is perhaps what our always optimistic prime minister expected. He said in the end that he had a good feeling that both Kinkel and Kohl wanted to help us. I am indeed an optimist, Prime Minister Panic said.

Milosevic Speaks at Village Rally

AU2511160992 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Address by President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia at rally in Negotin on 25 November—live or recorded]

[Text] All of us are very pleased to be in Negotin today and, believe us, we feel very fine here. [crowd cheers; someone shouts, "Slobo is the greatest Serb!"] You know that we are going through a serious crisis, which we have to endure in the interests of the development of our country, and in the interests of our future. We will endure the pressure that is being exerted on us [crowd cheers; someone shouts, "You are the greatest Serb!"] and we will not endanger our state and national interests. You can be sure of that.

The best answer we can give to all those who are advising us to give in to pressure is our work [someone shouts, "We will give our lives!"]. There is no need to give any lives [crowd cheers]; we need to strive to keep peace in the whole country. We have maintained peace in Serbia; we will continue to do so in the interest of all the citizens of Serbia, as peace is the most precious commodity. We have to fight for it all together. We will keep peace with our work. [crowd cheers; someone shouts, "You are the greatest Serb!"] Rest assured that we will not make any concessions on that.

Those who are recommending to us that us should bend, that we should kneel, they can bend themselves, they can kneel with people who think like them. Serbia will not bend or kneel. It will always be able to look everyone straight in the eye, because we can make progress successfully only if we are equal to our environment, if we are independent and free. [crowd cheers] In that name I greet you all and wish you every success. I wish you unity, you and the whole region. [someone shouts, "Happy birthday to you!"] I hope that you will find the right way to help, primarily with your work, since at the moment Serbia expects every citizen to do his best at work for his country and his people. Cheers! All the best! [crowd cheers]

Milosevic Receives International Veterans Delegation

AU2611212292 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1830 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic today received a delegation of international veterans' organizations. The delegation consisted of (Serg Urgaf), secretary general of the World Federation of Veterans; General (Bjorn Eger), vice president of the world federation; (Claude Barilie), secretary general of the European confederation of veterans; (Jacques Gushat), secretary general of the international confederation of former war prisoners; and (Oskar Bisflecker), secretary of the international confederation of resistance fighters.

The guests were interested in the views and stands of the Republic of Serbia on the Yugoslav crisis and the ending of the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina and expressed a wish to help in establishing peace in Yugoslavia, considering mutual friendship and Yugoslav fighters' great contribution in the struggle against fascism.

Stressing his satisfaction with their visit to our country as a friendly and allied country during the two world wars, President Slobodan Milosevic stressed that the visit is taking place at time of the resurgence of fascism on the territory of the former Yugoslav republics, and that, like 50 years ago, fascism will not succeed. According to President Milosevic, this mission deserves respect not only because its goal is to contribute toward peace, but also because it proceeds from the readiness to hear and accept arguments and facts.

Stressing that there is nothing we want more than peace, President Milosevic said that it is unfortunate that an extremely distorted picture of the situation in this region has been created in the international public. This proves that truth is the first casualty of war, something the Yugoslav example confirms irrefutably.

The violent breakup of Yugoslavia came about with the help of the nationalist policies that lead to great conflicts. However, despite the tensions that were created, there is no national discrimination in the Republic of Serbia, nor is anyone in it in danger because of his religious, national, or other affiliations. Unfortunately, this is not the case in some other former Yugoslav republics.

Regarding the emergence and the course of the Yugoslav crisis, it was stressed that the Republic of Serbia has held the view from the very beginning that the right of the peoples to self-determination cannot be denied to anyone, provided that the use of this right must be regulated by the Constitution in the same way for all. This would have solved all problems in a peaceful way. Unfortunately, this approach was not supported by those former Yugoslav republics that resorted to realization of the forced secession from Yugoslavia and demanded recognition from the international community immediately.

In this regard, it was also stressed that to achieve these interests, the Croatian Democratic Community as the ruling party in Croatia, first armed its members and then attacked the Serbian population in Krajinas. This is also confirmed by the fact that the zones that are currently under UNPROFOR protection had in fact been populated by the Serbian population, and that the Serbian people were forced to defend themselves from these attacks.

During the talks it was stressed that the Republic of Serbia has not carried out aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina, because there is not a single soldier of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia there. This is also confirmed by the official information of the United Nations. Despite this, Serbia has been subjected to sanctions and pressure that serve those who are trying to impose foreign will and realize foreign interests. Serbia is obviously an obstacle to the realization of these interests. At the same time, there are several tens of thousands of regular Croatian troops in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and yet Croatia is not subjected to any sanctions.

Expressing the hope that the truth about the causes of the crisis, war, its tragic consequences, and solutions for their just conclusion will manage to reach the international public, President Slobodan Milosevic expressed the belief that the efforts by foreign factors, who are important for the solving of crisis in Bosnia- Hercegovina, should be focused on the creation of conditions for all three warring sides to reach a just agreement through negotiations. This would preclude unprincipled support to any of these three sides.

One must, therefore, strive for solutions that none of these three peoples would consider imposed. For its part, the Republic of Serbia, as it has been doing so far, will invest its political influence for the simultaneous establishment of peace and protection of the vital interests and rights of the Serbian people.

The talks were also attended by Mihajlo Svabic and Dragoljub Cera Petrovic, representatives of the Serbian Veterans' Organization.

Foreign Minister Briefs Committee on UN Trip

AU2611161092 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The Committee for Foreign Policy and Economic Relations With Other Countries of the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Assembly is currently discussing the international political position of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia following the adoption of the latest resolution of the Security Council, and the course of the Geneva talks. Federal Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic, the ambassador coordinator of the working group at negotiations in Geneva, and Jugoslav Kostic, chairman of the Chamber of Citizens, are also taking part in the session. Ivana Pribicevic reports from the Federal Assembly:

[Pribicevic] In his introductory speech to the members of the Committee for Foreign Affairs and Economic Relations With Other Countries of the Chamber of Citizens, Federal Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic said that the goal of his recent visit to the United Nations and Washington was to assess on the spot the atmosphere and stands toward Yugoslavia, to establish what the chances were to at least partly moderate the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and to discuss the issue of Yugoslavia's membership in the United Nations.

He also presented the government's views on what has been done so far regarding attempts to end the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. We are not satisfied with the adoption of a new resolution that steps up the sanctions against Yugoslavia, Ilija Djukic said, adding that he considers it very significant that both in the United

Nations and Washington he was received as a minister of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Our partners have remained on the firm positions, setting us three conditions if the sanctions were to be lifted. These are: ending the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina, regulating relations with the former Yugoslav republics, and third, as Djukic said, they were waiting for the results of early elections in Yugoslavia and Serbia and democratic changes.

We took the view, Djukic said, that meeting these obligations is in our interest, but that some of these conditions are one-sided. We are not taking part in the war in Bosnia-Hercegovina, and pressure should also be exerted on the Muslims and Croats, Djukic said.

Minister Djukic also briefed the members of the committee that he had the opportunity to feel some indications as to what the future policy of Clinton's administration will be toward the Yugoslav crisis. This stand and this policy could be more complex and more balanced, Ilija Djukic said.

The discussion in the Committee for Foreign Affairs is still going on.

Jovanovic Criticism

LD2611224592 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2205 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, November 26 (TANJUG)—Serbian Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic said on Thursday that the Yugoslav government's behaviour was 'masochistic' and that in order to achieve a lifting of the United Nations-imposed sanctions, 'it was offering the world things that were not even being asked of it.'

At a session of the Yugoslav parliament's foreign policy committee, Jovanovic, who is chairman of the committee, did not deny the necessity of working on the lifting of sanctions introduced by the U.N. Security Council on May 30 against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but said that the Yugoslav Government's stand that we must 'bow down before the sanctions' was wrong, and that 'a victim has the right to defend himself.'

During the session Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic was criticized for statements which 'made it dubious' if he was implementing U.N. sanctions or working on their easing.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Ilija Djukic's introductory speech was positively assessed on the whole, but there was serious criticism over his urging for the fulfilling of demands laid down by the sanctions.

Jovanovic said that the denial of Yugoslavia's continuity before the world was a catastrophe, as was Panic's demand for Yugoslavia's membership in the U.N.. Jovanovic said further that the Federal Government should react immediately with an official demarche against all malicious demands calling for a change of Serbia's legitimate authorities.

'None of the resolutions contain such a demand, therefore, a demarche should be made to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which explicitly bans the undermining of legitimate authorities,' said Jovanovic.

Speaking of Serbia's southern province of Kosovo and Metohija, Jovanovic said that a clear difference should be made between the humanitarian issues to be discussed, and what was the direct interfering in the internal affairs of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by some countries which supported the secession of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija.

Jovanovic criticized the Yugoslav Government of presenting itself before the world as the only advocate of peace. As if Serbia were not following such a policy. 'No government which thinks well of itself will consistently criticize its internal partners, as is the case with Panic and his government,' said Jovanovic. 'The Federal Government is prepared to fulfil all demands made of us by the world and that is why it should not be obeyed,' said opposition Serbian Radical Party (SRS) deputy Milorad Jevric. Jovanovic urged for a policy of compromise but not one of one-sided concessions, adding that he was sometimes under the impression that 'Panic was the prime minister of a government representing the world in Yugoslavia and not Yugoslavia in the world.'

Macedonian Ministry on Expulsion of Greek Reporters

LD2711033092 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0004 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Skopje, November 26 (TANJUG)—The Ministry of the Interior of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia said on Wednesday [25 November] that it had expelled two Greek citizens, reporters working for a Greek radio station.

Reporters Konstandinos Lakivakis and Ioannis Olivakis were expelled for 'filming without permission facilities of security importance in Skopje's old bazaar,' said a Macedonian Interior Ministry statement, on Thursday.

The Greek reporters have been banned from entering Macedonia for a year.

Macedonian radio said on Thursday that 'without doubt, Greek propaganda will make the most of the expulsion and use it as a new argument against Macedonia's recognition at the European Community summit in Edinburgh.' Macedonian radio asks further, 'why did this have to happen just now.'

Greece protested sharply on Wednesday evening over the expulsion, claiming that the reporters had been taken in by the police three times without reason, and asked for the international condemnation of Skopje.

Cosic Proposes To Meet Izetbegovic in Sarajevo

AU2611173892 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Dobrica Cosic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, has sent a letter to Alija Izetbegovic, [president of Bosnia-Hercegovina]. President Cosic has proposed to meet Alija Izetbegovic, together with Nobel prize winner Eli Wiesel and Radovan Karadzic, in Sarajevo on Sunday on 29 November. This was confirmed to TANJUG by the Yugoslav president's office.

In his letter, Cosic informs Izetbegovic that Wiesel will arrive in Yugoslavia on 27 November with the sincere wish to help and, above all, contribute toward the fastest possible establishment of peace.

As has been learned, the meeting scheduled for 29 November, would be held at the Sarajevo airport. The intention of President Cosic, as the letter states, is to hold talks once again about the ways of stopping the bloodshed of the unfortunate peoples of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

If President Cosic is prevented from going to Sarajevo for health reasons, Milan Panic would substitute for him in the talks. At the end of his letter, President Cosic asks Izetbegovic to advise whether he agrees to a meeting in Sarajevo as soon as possible.

Cosic Returns to Work After Surgery, Convalescence

LD2711031092 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2000 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Nov (TANJUG)—Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic was in his office in New Belgrade's Palace of the Federation today for the first time since his operation, TANJUG has learned.

The Yugoslav president held his first working meeting with his closest associates today after several days of convalescence.